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Round 9 – Sunday 8th December 1996

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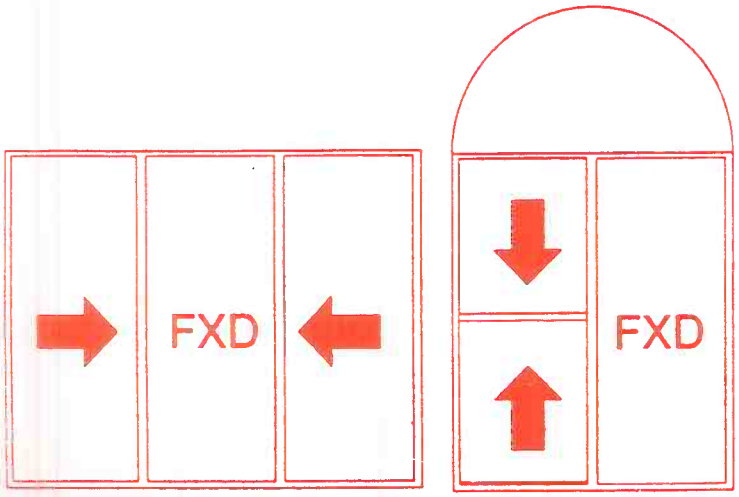

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MATCH DAY

8 December 1996
Issue 29 – Season 96/97
ISSN 1323-3912

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Published by
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PUBLISHING & MARKETING
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EDITORIAL

Sticking with the kids

IT DOESN'T SEEM that long ago that the-then coach Mick Hickman walked out on Sydney United because the club wouldn't invest in new players.

At the time the club decided, and time has proven that decision correct, to maintain its youth policy; to give regular first team berths to some of the promising kids coming through the youth ranks.

Now that decision is looking really smart as the combined value of the current Sydney United first team squad is rated at a cool $5million.

Remember it was just a few seasons ago when the *entire* Socceroo squad wouldn't have fetched much more than that figure so the wisdom of that youth policy is very evident.

Unfortunately a youth policy gives a club an even bigger problem; that of continuing the flow of talent.

That reputation of giving youngsters a chance spreads pretty quickly through the game and as a result most junior players would bust a gut to get into the Sydney United talent pipeline giving the United coaching staff a huge, if welcome, additional problem.

And now with United's entry into the New South Wales Soccer Federation's Super League set-up that pipeline is going to be expanded yet again.

That will mean even more brilliant youngsters looking for eventual first team places.

And at the end of the day only eleven players can take the field at any one time.

Even with all the recent rule changes thrust upon the game that one hasn't altered – at least not yet.

The trick now is maintaining that fine balance between explosive youth and experience.

The difference at United, of course, is that almost exclusively that experience has been nurtured through our own youth system.

No doubt there will be players moving onto overseas clubs at the end of the season – with the almost certainty that two of our stars will move on during it.

That in itself is vital to the lifeblood of Sydney United, providing the cash flow to not only develop the facilities at the ground but also to re-invest in the production of young talent.

The signs are there that the well hasn't run dry either, with Sydney United still prominent in the Under 17 Joey programme.

In fact Sydney United has been rivalled by only one other club in Australia in recent years in regards to talent supplied to the four Australian national teams.

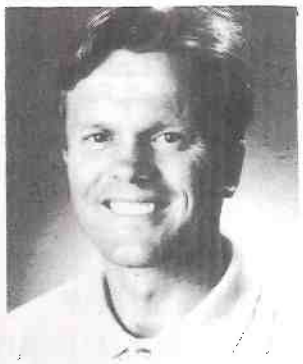
Not one other Sydney team can boast anything like the achievements of United or Melbourne Knights, making that decision of some four seasons ago to stick to the kids a very shrewd and far-sighted one.

Now, as a result, 'veterans' like Tony Popovic, Ante Moric, Mark Babic, Ante Milicic and Zeljko Kalac are strutting their stuff.

Bruce Campbell

The statisticians are starting to point out the 1985 record of Sydney City, something which is currently well within the reach of Sydney United. But Branko Culina is still setting his own targets, ones which he is happy being played from

DAY TO DAY



EVERY team in the league has a bogey team, one which it doesn't like playing, one which always seems to get the upper hand as far as results are concerned.

For Sydney United that team used to be Melbourne Knights but good results over the last two seasons have restored that imbalance.

And if you ask Marconi supporters who 'has the wood on the Stallions' they'll almost definitely say United.

"Even when we were in the State League and they were in the NSL we used to get the results," says long-time supporter and former committee person Marijan Devcic.

"We could always get the results that mattered, that's why derbies between the two clubs are still big things today."

But it looked as though the new boys from Canberra were about to take over from the Knights, giving United the sort of hard time that upset that free-flowing style of football.

Last season United had to battle hard to come away with a 0-0 draw, with Ante Moric's night in hospital being testament to the level of the battle.

Even this season, which sees the Cosmos struggling in bottom spot, Bruce Stadium is a hard place to get a result.

Last week it looked like the rookies would continue upsetting the United master-plan when they took an early lead.

"I was happy with the way we played," said Branko Culina after the match.

"Canberra are a tough team to play at Bruce, but we did what we had to and took the points."

And that sums up the season so far, as United start to stretch out at the top of the league.

The way that the rest have fallen off has surprised even United's reticent coach.

"Look, I don't like making predictions," he says.

"But we have opened up a bit of a gap."

And now the club is looking forward to the top of the table Round 14 clash with Brisbane Strikers as a sell-out.

Strangely the 'fixture computer' has a home and away re-match in Rounds 13 and 14, giving a cup tie atmosphere to the season.

"No-one could have predicted the way the two clubs would be," says club president, Ivan Simic.

"That computer listing is just a fluke but hopefully we can both maintain our present positions and see a couple of bumper crowds.

"Brisbane is an attractive team and our supporters like to see football played that way, that is what they demand."

Both the Strikers and United have been sharing the top spot recently with goal difference being the separator.

But last weekend the Brisbane side slipped up to let the Pumas into a clear lead, a lead which Branko Culina would be happy to keep until the end of the season.

"Definitely," he adds.

"It is always better to be in top spot than having to make up ground.

"It can take away pressure but there is also pressure on us to keep winning."

And mathematically the odds against United going through the season undefeated are huge, with no other side ever having done it in the NSL's history.

And a flick through the pages of the *Asics Australian Soccer Yearbook* reveals that, in 'modern currency', the least amount of points dropped was Sydney City's

eleven in 1985.

With a third of the season gone tonight that record is in sight but don't talk to Branko Culina about records – or championships – yet.

But you can talk to him about the way his team is playing, and the master coach is clearly satisfied with his pupils – so far.

Unfortunately it is almost a certainty that Tony Popovic will be off to Japan in February.

"We can't hold him back," says Ivan Simic.

"It is such a great offer for him as a player, it wouldn't have been fair to stop him.

"But we have got an option on Tony's contract after two years and also a clause which sees the club get a good percentage of any sell-on figure.

"We will be sad to see him go to Sanfrecce but he's been here for seven years and has done a great job for us."

Another certainty to move on is Zeljko Kalac who looks a hot tip to be playing in Europe by next season.

That makes things a bit harder for the United side but the league title is still a major target this season – with a place in the proposed $50million international club cup series a prize.

Sydney City's long-standing eleven point record from 1985 is also a target, at least for the statisticians.

Zeljko Kalac: look certain to be heading back to Europe

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KRESIMIR MARUSIC has started off the new season with his new club like a house on fire – and has quickly become a big favourite with the fans on the terraces.

His ability at set piece plays and deadly accurate right foot crosses are just two of the reasons why he is having such an impact in the Ericsson up.

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Winging it from the back

"NATURALLY you play where the coach tells you," answers Ante Moric to the question asked by many in the game, 'why is he playing full back instead of midfield?'

Last season the Socceroo played a prominent role in midfield and it was often his telling left foot crosses which led to all-important goals as United grabbed yet another Top Six spot.

But this season has seen Ante's 'removal' into the backline, incidentally a position which former Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson thought was his best.

Moric, who played in midfield in the 1993 World Youth Championship, has tired of answering questions about which role he prefers.

"That's right," he says, "I've just answered that particular question so many times it isn't funny.

"Maybe I'm just not good enough to play midfield ....."

But Moric does concede that it is his ability as a midfield p[layer which is allowing him to fill the new role to coach Branko Culina's satisfaction.

Instead of linking up with the forwards or looping long balls across-field now it is an equally familiar side to see Moric raiding out of defence - and knocking in even longer balls to the forwards.

That has added another dimension to the United bow - and something must be going right judging by the way the team is playing.

"That's probably right," the United star says on reflection.

"It does help the team to get a few long crosses in because that is our system, that is how we play.

"If it helps the team then that is important, too."

Ante Moric also recognises that his new role is a position created by the modern game, a position which has seen a lot of players once regarded as even forwards now playing 'wing back' - players such as former United icon, Robbie Slater now filling such a role for Southampton in the English Premier League.

"It is a position in which you have to get up and down the flank and get in your share of tackling as well as attacking.

"It is suited to an attacking player and while it has its minuses it also has its pluses.

"Our style is a good one - it gives us our two central defenders at the back, and a stopper, as well as that freedom to get forward whenever possible.

"I don't have to stay back - I can get down the channel whenever possible."

United's successful adaptation of the modern game is one of the reasons why the season has started so well for the Pumas - that and bucket-load of talent.

And while Ante Moric would still prefer his 'conventional' role in midfield he has the final word on the switch to modern soccer.

"It's hard," he says, "but if its good for the team then that is what this game is all about."

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Adelaide City Zebras

Sydney United Sports Centre
Sunday 29 December 1996

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(Youth Match 4.30pm)

Hot Shots

ERICSSON CUP
THE TOP MARKSMEN

8 **David ZDRILIC (Sydney United)**

5 Rod BROWN (Brisbane Strikers)
Bobby DESPOTOVSKI (Perth Glory)
Norman TOME (UTS Olympic)

4 Jason BENNETT (Newcastle Breakers)
Matt HORSLEY (Wollongong City)
Ante MILICIC (Sydney United)
Paul STRUDWICK (Perth Glory)
Jim TSEKINIS (West Adelaide)

3 Frank FARINA (Brisbane Strikers)
Norman Kelly (Canberra)
Eddie KRNCEVIC (Gippsland)
Glenn SPROD (Newcastle)
Brian MacNICOL (Collingwood)
Kimon TALIADOROS (Collingwood)

On the Card

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 9
Friday
Wollongong City v West Adelaide
Newcastle Breakers v Gippsland Falcons
Saturday
Brisbane Strikers v Perth Glory
Sunday
Adelaide City v Canberra Cosmos
South Melbourne v UTS Olympic
Melbourne Knights v Marconi Fairfield
Sydney United v Collingwood Warriors

1996/97 PUMA STATISTICS

Best League (United) Crowd:
11,381 v UTS Olympic (Home – Round 5)
8,952 v Marconi Fairfield (Away – Round 4)

Best League (United) Home Crowd:
11,381 v UTS Olympic (Home – Round 5)
4,085 v Wollongong Wolves (Home – Round 1)

Total League Home Crowds:
22,560 (4 games)

Average League Home Crowd:
5,640

All Club Top League Crowd:
12,561 Collingwood Warriors v Melbourne Knights (Round 1)

Player Appearances:
08 Babic, Mark
08 Bilokapic, Paul
02 Culina, Jason
08 Cvetko, Damir
08 Enes, Robert
02 Gibson, Chad
08 Kalac, Zeljko
07 Kupresak, Velimir
01 Markovac, Robbie
08 Marusic, Kresimir
08 Milicic, Ante
08 Moric, Ante
01 Plesa, Richard
06 Popovic, Tony
05 Rudan, Marko
07 Trajkovski, Robert
02 Vrkic, Joe
08 Zdrilic, David

Total: 18 players

Goals Scored:
08 Zdrilic, David
04 Milicic, Ante
02 Babic, Mark
02 Cvetko, Damir
02 Marusic, Kresimir
02 Popovic, Tony (1 pen)
02 Velimir Kupresak
01 Moric, Ante
01 Rudan, Marko

Total: 24 goals

&figuresfacts&figuresfacts&

Ericsson Cup

ROUND 3 (re-scheduled)
Wednesday 6 November

Sydney United 3 — Melbourne Knights 1
Kupresak 58 — Kutlesovski 52
Zdrilic 64
Cvetko 90
Att: 3,644 — Referee: B Hugo
Venue: Sydney United Sports Centre

ROUND 5
Friday 8 November

Wollongong City 1 — South Melbourne 1
Harlock 57 — Trimboli 16
Att: 2,905 — Referee: C Diomis
Venue:Brandon Park

NewcastleBreakers 2 — Canberra Cosmos 2
Halpin 33 — Buljan 18
Sprod 46 — Koch 68
Att: 3,107 — Referee: D Crawford
Venue:Breakers Stadium

Saturday 9 November

Brisbane Strikers 2 — Melbourne Knights 1
Farina 28 — Pondeljak 40
Knipe 86
Att: 5,075 — Referee: E Lennie
Venue:Suncorp Stadium

Gippsland Falcons 1 — West Adelaide 2
Palamaras 89 — Tsekinis 28, 59
Att: 2,480 — Referee: M Shield
Venue:Falcons Park

Sunday 10 November

Adelaide City 0 — Marconi Fairfield 1
Harper 7
Att: 4,112 — Referee: B Hugo
Venue:Hindmarsh Stadium

Collingwood 0 — Perth Glory 0
Att: 5,504 — Referee: W Dade
Venue:Victoria Park

Sydney United 2 — UTS Olympic 1
Popovic 60, 77 – pens — Sorras 65
Att: 11,381# — Referee: S Micallef
Venue:Sydney United Sports Centre

ROUND 6
Saturday 16 November

Canberra Cosmos 2 — Collingwood Warriors 2
Kelly 65 – pen — Taliadoros 30
Watson 90 — MacNicol 49
Att: 2,533 — Referee: M Shield
Venue: Bruce Stadium

Marconi Fairfield 0 — Brisbane Strikers 1
Brown 26
Att: 5,249 — Referee: S Micallef
Venue: Marconi Stadium

Perth Glory 2 — Gippsland Falcons 3
Kalogeracos 60 — Krncevic 21 pen, 34
Strudwick 80 — Marcina 25
Att: 6,299 — Referee: A Gorton
Venue: Perth Oval

Sunday 17 November

South Melbourne 1 — Newcastle Breakers 0
Kelic 26
Att: 5,335 — Referee: E Brazzale
Venue: Lakeside Stadium

ERICSSON CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	6	5	1	0	17	8	16
Brisbane Strikers	6	5	1	0	13	4	16
UTS Olympic	5	3	1	1	10	4	10
Collingwood Warriors	5	2	3	0	8	4	9
West Adelaide	6	3	0	3	12	14	9
Marconi Fairfield	6	2	2	2	7	9	8
Perth Glory	6	2	1	3	13	11	7
Wollongong City	6	1	4	1	6	6	7
Adelaide City	6	1	3	2	3	4	6
Newcastle Breakers	7	1	3	3	11	14	6
South Melbourne	6	1	2	3	5	8	5
Gippsland falcons	6	1	2	3	6	10	5
Melbourne Knights	6	1	2	3	3	8	5
Canberra Cosmos	7	0	3	4	8	18	3

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE (N)

NORTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Marconi Fairfield	5	4	0	1	6	2	12
UTS Olympic	5	3	2	0	10	4	11
AIS	5	3	2	0	9	3	11
Sydney United	5	3	2	0	8	2	11
Newcastle Breakers	4	3	0	1	10	6	9
Wollongong City	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
NSWIS	4	2	0	2	6	3	6
Marconi Colts	5	2	0	3	8	7	6
Queensland Acad.	5	2	0	3	8	7	6
Olympic Colts	4	1	0	3	3	12	3
ACT Academy	5	0	0	5	1	12	0
Sydney United Colts	6	0	0	6	1	14	0

Melbourne Knights 0 — Wollongong City 0
Att: 3,174 — Referee: B Hugo
Venue: Knights Park

UTS Olympic 1 — Adelaide City 1
Auegrinos 77 — Hassell 2
Att: 5,216 — Referee: Hassell 2
Venue: Belmore Sports Ground

West Adelaide 2 — Sydney United 3
Cardozo 60 — Zdrilic 21
Slager 89 — Babic 39
Milicic 76
Att: 4,703 — Referee: E Lennie
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium

NORTHERN DIVISION NYL
ROUND 5

Newcastle 3 — ACT Academy 0
Queensland Acad 3 — Sydney United Colts 0
Sydney United 1 — UTS Olympic 1
NSWIS 5 — Olympic Colts 0
AIS v Marconi Fairfield PP
Wollongong City: bye, Marconi Colts: bye

ROUND 6

Sydney Utd Colts 0 — Wollongong City 3
Olympic Colts 0 — Sydney United 3
ACT Academy 0 — Marconi Colts 2
Marconi Fairfield 2 — Queensland Academy 0
UTS Olympic 1 — AIS 1
Newcastle Breakers: bye, NSWIS: bye

Match Day

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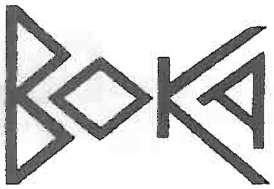
TEAM LINE UPS

SYDNEY UNITED

1. Zeljko Kalac
2. Robert Trajkovski
3. Velimir Kupresak
4. Tony Popovic
5. Mark Babic
6. Robert Enes
7. Kresimir Marusic
8. Ante Moric C.
9. Robbie Markovac
10. Ante Milicic
11. Damir Cvetko
12. Aytec Genc
14. David Zdrilic G G G G
15. Jason Culina
17. Paul Bilokapic
18. Richard Plesa
19. Joe Vrkic
20. Peter Blazincic
21. Mark Rudan G
22. Jacob Burns
23. Chad Gibson
24. Dean Culina
25. Tom Maric
26. Ante Seric
27. John Didulica



COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS

1. Dean Anastasiatis
3. George Jolevski
6. Carlo Talladira
7. Andrew Vlahos
8. Con Boutsianis
9. Kimon Taliadoros
10. Ernie Tapai
11. Goran Lozanovski
12. Steven Iosifidis
~~14. Tom Karapatsos~~
15. Leigh Tsoumerkas
19. George Georgiades
20. Alexander Pryhodko
21. Frank Juric
16 D. Kaplanovic
13 G. Jolevski
2 Dean FAK
14 Brian MacNicol
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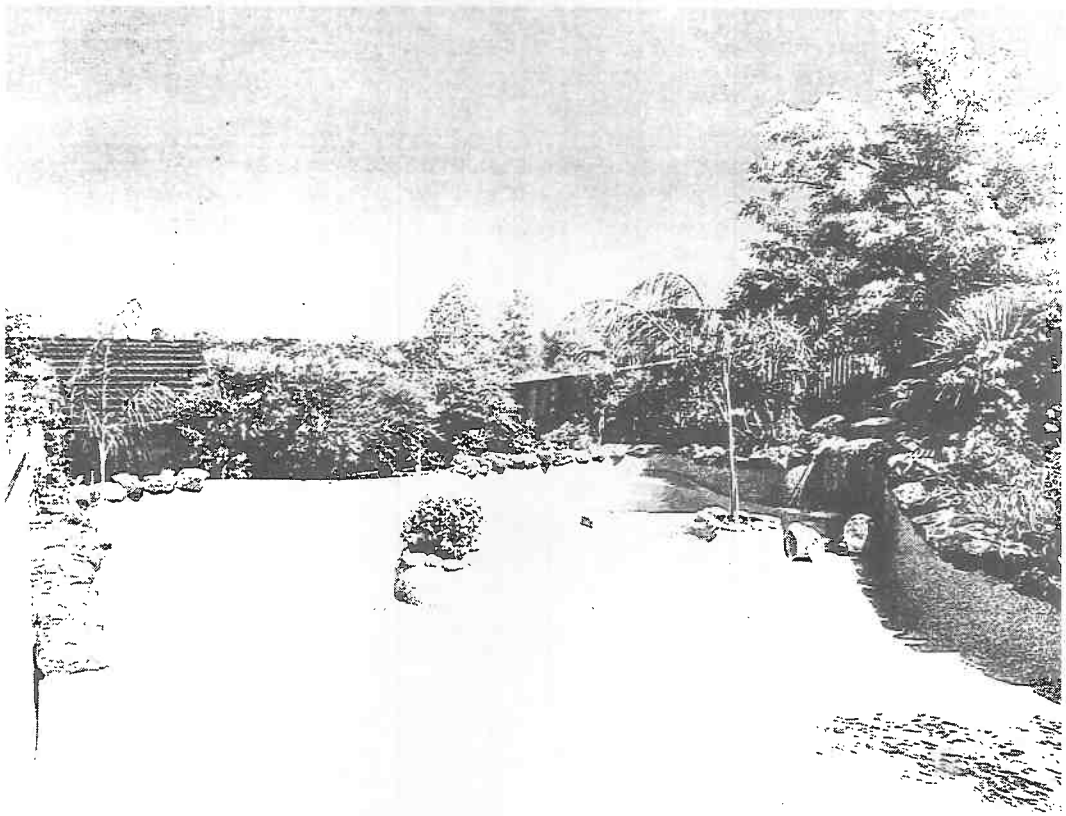

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ERICSSON

Goals; it's not just what you eat

ANTE MILICIC has talent; there is no doubt about that. Some rate him as one of the most skilful ball players in Australia.Yet last season was certainly not one he would claim as his best.

Flashes of magic reminded Australian soccer fans of the gifted ball player who set the World Youth Cup on fire in 1993, but they were all too frequent.

So too were the goals which are the hallmark of any forward or attacking midfielder's stock in trade.

Yet this season Ante has bagged more than his entire 95/96 total.

His confidence is up, he is looking sharp – and it can be no coincidence that the Pumas are sitting on top of the league.

"Against Perth wasn't one of my better games this season," he says "but I'm a lot happier with my overall form.

"There is no disrespect to Perth intended but maybe we just took them a bit too lightly.

"Or it could have been the heavy pitch or even just the psychological fact of coming down from playing a better team."

That might be something that United has to get used to this season, playing teams which aren't of the same standard, that is, but it does give the back room boys some cause for concern.

Already this season United has shown an alarming tendency to fall out of the game – but luckily they have also discovered the knack of shifting up a gear at will.

They have done that against Wollongong, Perth, Olympic, Melbourne Knights and, most recently, Canberra Cosmos.

Despite surrendering an early goal in these games they came back with apparent ease, although the revival against Wollongong was too late to grab maximum points.

"That's the United problem of old," says Milicic. "We seem to fall asleep in games but this season we're able to come from behind.

"Last season we couldn't do that but we're doing it now."

And one of those players who is adding to the score tally is Ante Milicic with four league goals.

Another is David Zdrilic who is topping the scoring charts with 8.]

But the United goals are coming freely from different areas in the team, aided by the side's ability to consistently get forward and penetrate the opposition penalty area – the scoring zone.

Few of the United goals this season have come from outside that zone, although one memorable exception was Damir Cvetko's thirty-yard blaster against Melbourne Knights.

"I don't know quite what it is," says Milicic.

"Maybe it is something we are all eating, maybe our luck has turned around a bit as well.

"But we are also a lot fitter as a team this season.

"And the addition of Kresimir Marusic to the side, and his ability to score, has taken a bit of pressure off the forwards as well."

That release of pressure has seen a much more potent Ante Milicic.

"I think in the past that I have been a bit too unselfish," he explains.

"But now I'm trying to make sure that I am in the position to score.

"The first thing is to make sure that the shot is on target and if you can keep on doing that then eventually the goals are going to go in."

So with four goals already and last season's total tally topped, does Ante Milicic believe in setting targets?

"I had a chat with the coach at the beginning of the season about that," he says, "and we agreed that if I can get between ten and twelve goals, and David Zdrilic can do the same, then we will be on target to do what we want to achieve as a team.

"But others are scoring too, they are just slipping in."

And the BIG target?

"We've said all along that if we are going to win this one then we have to finish first or second," says the hot shot, "that's our target, if we can do that then we can be champions."

Bruce Campbell

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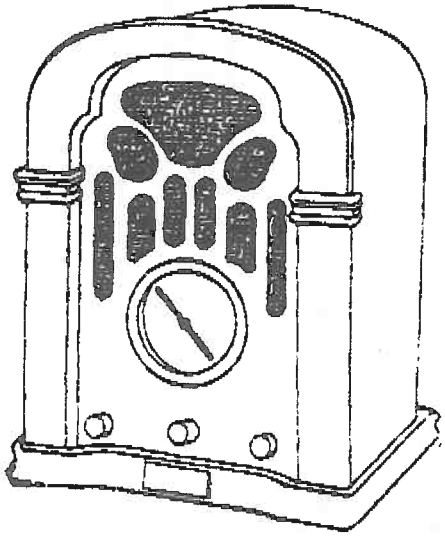

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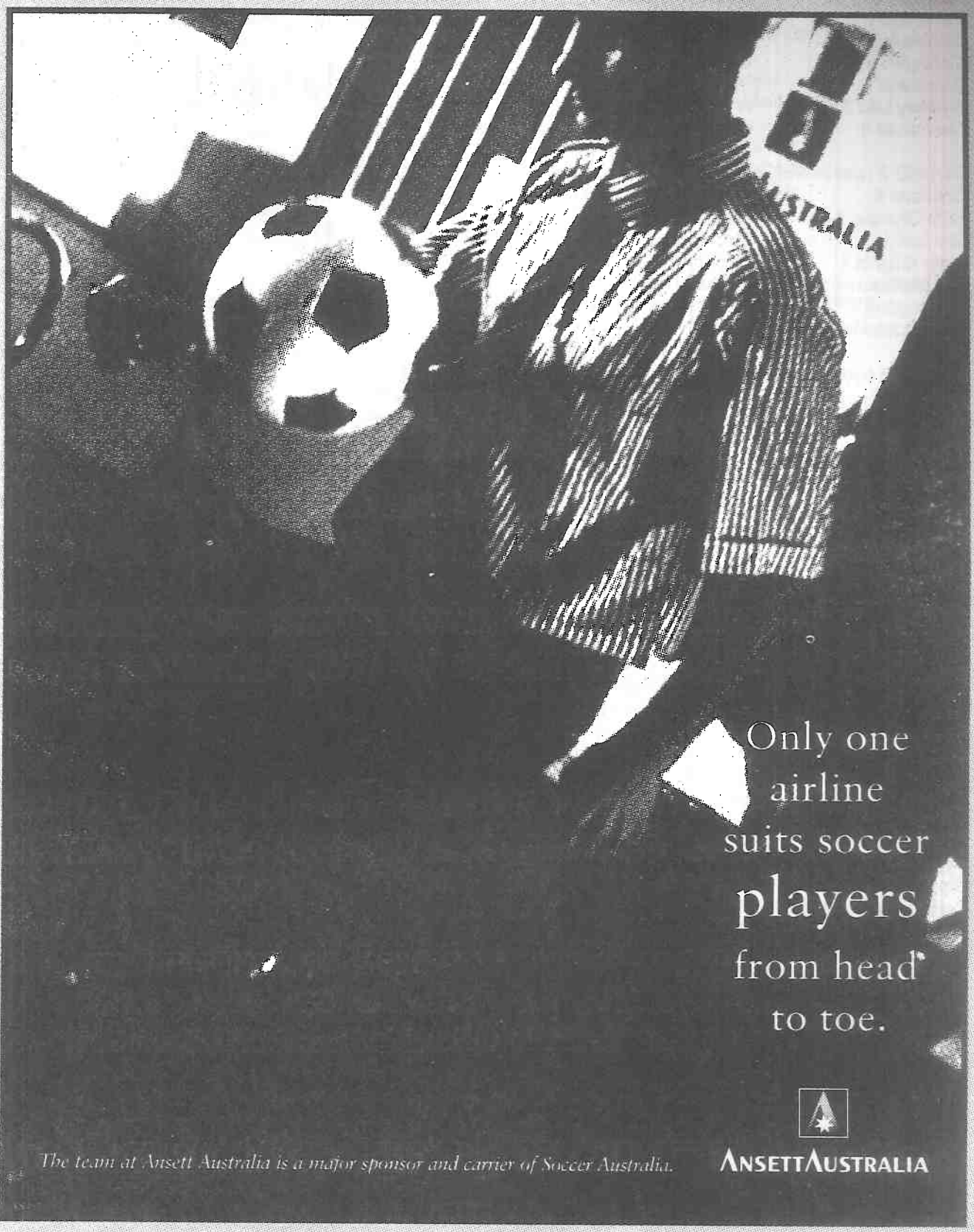
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ROUND 1 (week-ending 13th October)

Adelaide City 0	Brisbane Strikers 0
Perth Glory 1	UTS Olympic 4
Canberra 2	Marconi Fairfield 3
Collingwood 3	Melbourne Knights 0
Gippsland 0	South Melbourne 0
Sydney Utd 3	**Wollongong City 3**
Newcastle 6	West Adelaide 1

ROUND 2 (week-ending 20th October)

Brisbane 6	Newcastle Breakers 1
UTS Olympic 1	Canberra Cosmos 0
Marconi 1	Collingwood Warriors 1
Melb Knights 1	Gippsland Falcons 1
Sth Melbourne 1	**Sydney United 3**
Wollongong 1	Adelaide City 0
West Adelaide1	Perth Glory 3

ROUND 3 (week-ending 27th October)

Brisbane 2	Wollongong City 1
Newcastle 1	Perth Glory 3
Canberra 1	West Adelaide 3
Collingwood Warriors v UTS Olympic PP	
Gippsland 2	Marconi Fairfield 2
Sydney Utd 3	**Melb Knights 1** (6/11/96)
Adelaide City 2	South Melbourne 1

ROUND 4 (week-ending 3rd November)

Wollongong City 0	Newcastle Breakers 0
South Melbourne 1	Brisbane Strikers 2
Melbourne Knights 0	Adelaide City 0
Marconi Fairfield 0	**Sydney United 3**
UTS Olympic 3	Gippsland Falcons 0
West Adelaide 1	Collingwood Warriors 2
Perth Glory 6	Canberra Cosmos 0

ROUND 5 (week-ending 10th November)

Wollongong City 1	South Melbourne 1
Brisbane Strikers 2	Melbourne Knights 1
Adelaide City 0	Marconi Fairfield 1
Sydney United 2	**UTS Olympic 1**
Gippsland Falcons 1	West Adelaide 2
Collingwood Warriors 0	Perth Glory 0
Newcastle Breakers 2	Canberra Cosmos 2

ROUND 6 (week-ending 17th November)

South Melbourne 1	Newcastle Breakers 0
Melbourne Knights 0	Wollongong City 0
Marconi Fairfield 0	Brisbane Strikers 1
UTS Olympic 1	Adelaide City 1
West Adelaide 2	**Sydney United 3**
Perth Glory 2	Gippsland 3
Canberra Cosmos 2	Collingwood Warriors 2

ROUND 7 (week-ending 24th November)

South Melbourne 1	Melbourne Knights 1
Wollongong City 3	Marconi Fairfield 2
Brisbane Strikers 4	UTS Olympic 1
Adelaide City 1	West Adelaide 0
Sydney United 4	**Perth Glory 2**
Gippsland Falcons 0	Canberra Cosmos 0
Newcastle Breakers 1	Collingwood Warriors 1

ROUND 8 (week-ending 1st December)

Melbourne Knights 2	Newcastle Breakers 0
Marconi Fairfield 0	South Melbourne 1
UTS Olympic 1	Wollongong City 1
West Adelaide 0	Brisbane Strikers 0
Perth Glory 2	Adelaide City 1
Canberra Cosmos 1	**Sydney United 3**
Collingwood Warriors 0	Gippsland Falcons 1

ROUND 9 (week-ending 8th December)

Adelaide City v Canberra Cosmos
Brisbane Strikers v Perth Glory
Wollongong City v West Adelaide
South Melbourne v UTS Olympic
Melbourne Knights v Marconi Fairfield
Sydney United v Collingwood Warriors
Newcastle Breakers v Gippsland Falcons

ROUND 10 (week-ending 15th December)

Marconi-Fairfield v Newcastle Breakers
UTS Olympic v Melbourne Knights
West Adelaide v South Melbourne
Perth Glory v Wollongong City
Canberra Cosmos v Brisbane Strikers
Collingwood Warriors v Adelaide City
Gippsland Falcons v Sydney United

ROUND 11 (week-ending 22nd December)

Marconi-Fairfield v UTS Olympic
Melbourne Knights v West Adelaide
South Melbourne v Perth Glory
Wollongong City v Canberra Cosmos
Brisbane Strikers v Collingwood Warriors
Adelaide City v Gippsland Falcons
Newcastle Breakers v Sydney United

ROUND 12 (week-ending 29th December)

West Adelaide v Marconi-Fairfield
UTS Olympic v Newcastle Breakers
Perth Glory v Melbourne Knights
Canberra Cosmos v South Melbourne
Collingwood Warriors v Wollongong City
Gippsland Falcons v Brisbane Strikers
Sydney United v Adelaide City

ROUND 13 (week-ending 5th January)
Adelaide City v Newcastle Breakers
Brisbane Strikers v Sydney United
Wollongong City v Gippsland Falcons
South Melbourne v Collingwood Warriors
Melbourne Knights v Canberra Cosmos
Marconi Fairfield v Perth Glory
UTS Olympic v West Adelaide

ROUND 14 (week-ending 12th January)
Newcastle Breakers v Adelaide City
Sydney United v Brisbane Strikers
Gippsland Falcons v Wollongong City
Collingwood Warriors v South Melbourne
Canberra Cosmos v Melbourne Knights
Perth Glory v Marconi Fairfield
West Adelaide v UTS Olympic

ROUND 15 (week-ending 2nd February)
Brisbane Strikers v Adelaide City
Wollongong City v Sydney United
South Melbourne v Gippsland Falcons
Melbourne Knights v Collingwood Warriors
Marconi Fairfield v Canberra Cosmos
UTS Olympic v Perth Glory
West Adelaide v Newcastle Breakers

ROUND 16 (week-ending 9th February)
Adelaide City v Wollongong City
Sydney United v South Melbourne
Morwell Falcons v Melbourne Knights
Collingwood Warriors v Marconi Fairfield
Canberra Cosmos v UTS Olympic
Perth Glory v West Adelaide
Newcastle Breakers v Brisbane Strikers

ROUND 17 (week-ending 16th February)
South Melbourne v Adelaide City
Wollongong City v Brisbane Strikers
Marconi Fairfield v Morwell Falcons
Melbourne Knights v Sydney United
UTS Olympic v Collingwood Warriors
West Adelaide v Canberra Cosmos
Perth Glory v Newcastle Breakers

ROUND 18 (week-ending 23rd February)
Adelaide City v Melbourne Knights
Brisbane Strikers v South Melbourne
Canberra Cosmos v Perth Glory
Collingwood Warriors v West Adelaide
Morwell Falcons v UTS Olympic
Sydney United v Marconi Fairfield
Newcastle Breakers v Wollongong City

ROUND 19 (week-ending 2nd March)
Marconi Fairfield v Adelaide City
Melbourne Knights v Brisbane Strikers
South Melbourne v Wollongong City
Canberra 1 Newcastle Breakers 1 (1/11/96)
Perth Glory v Collingwood Warriors
West Adelaide v Morwell Falcons
UTS Olympic v Sydney United

ROUND 20 (week-ending 9th March)
Adelaide City v UTS Olympic
Brisbane Strikers v Marconi Fairfield
Wollongong City v Melbourne Knights
Collingwood Warriors v Canberra Cosmos
Morwell Falcons v Perth Glory
Sydney United v West Adelaide
Newcastle Breakers v South Melbourne

ROUND 21 (week-ending 16th March)
Melbourne Knights v South Melbourne
Marconi Fairfield v Wollongong City
UTS Olympic v Brisbane Strikers
West Adelaide v Adelaide City
Perth Glory v Sydney United
Canberra Cosmos v Morwell Falcons
Collingwood Warriors v Newcastle Breakers

ROUND 22 (week-ending 23rd March)
Adelaide City v Perth Glory
Brisbane Strikers v West Adelaide
Wollongong City v UTS Olympic
South Melbourne v Marconi Fairfield
Morwell Falcons v Collingwood Warriors
Sydney United v Canberra Cosmos
Newcastle Breakers v Melbourne Knights

ROUND 23 (week-ending 30th March)
Marconi Fairfield v Melbourne Knights
UTS Olympic v South Melbourne
West Adelaide v Wollongong City
Perth Glory v Brisbane Strikers
Canberra Cosmos v Adelaide City
Collingwood Warriors v Sydney United
Morwell Falcons v Newcastle Breakers

ROUND 24 (week-ending 6th April)
Melbourne Knights v UTS Olympic
South Melbourne v West Adelaide
Wollongong City v Perth Glory
Brisbane Strikers v Canberra Cosmos
Adelaide City v Collingwood Warriors
Sydney United v Morwell Falcons
Newcastle Breakers v Marconi Fairfield

ROUND 25 (week-ending 13th April)
UTS Olympic v Marconi Fairfield
West Adelaide v Melbourne Knights
Perth Glory v South Melbourne
Canberra Cosmos v Wollongong City
Collingwood Warriors v Brisbane Strikers
Sydney United v Newcastle Breakers
Morwell Falcons v Adelaide City

ROUND 26 (week-ending 20th April)
Adelaide City v Sydney United
Brisbane Strikers v Morwell Falcons
Wollongong City v Collingwood Warriors
South Melbourne v Canberra Cosmos
Melbourne Knights v Perth Glory
Marconi Fairfield v West Adelaide
Newcastle Breakers v UTS Olympic

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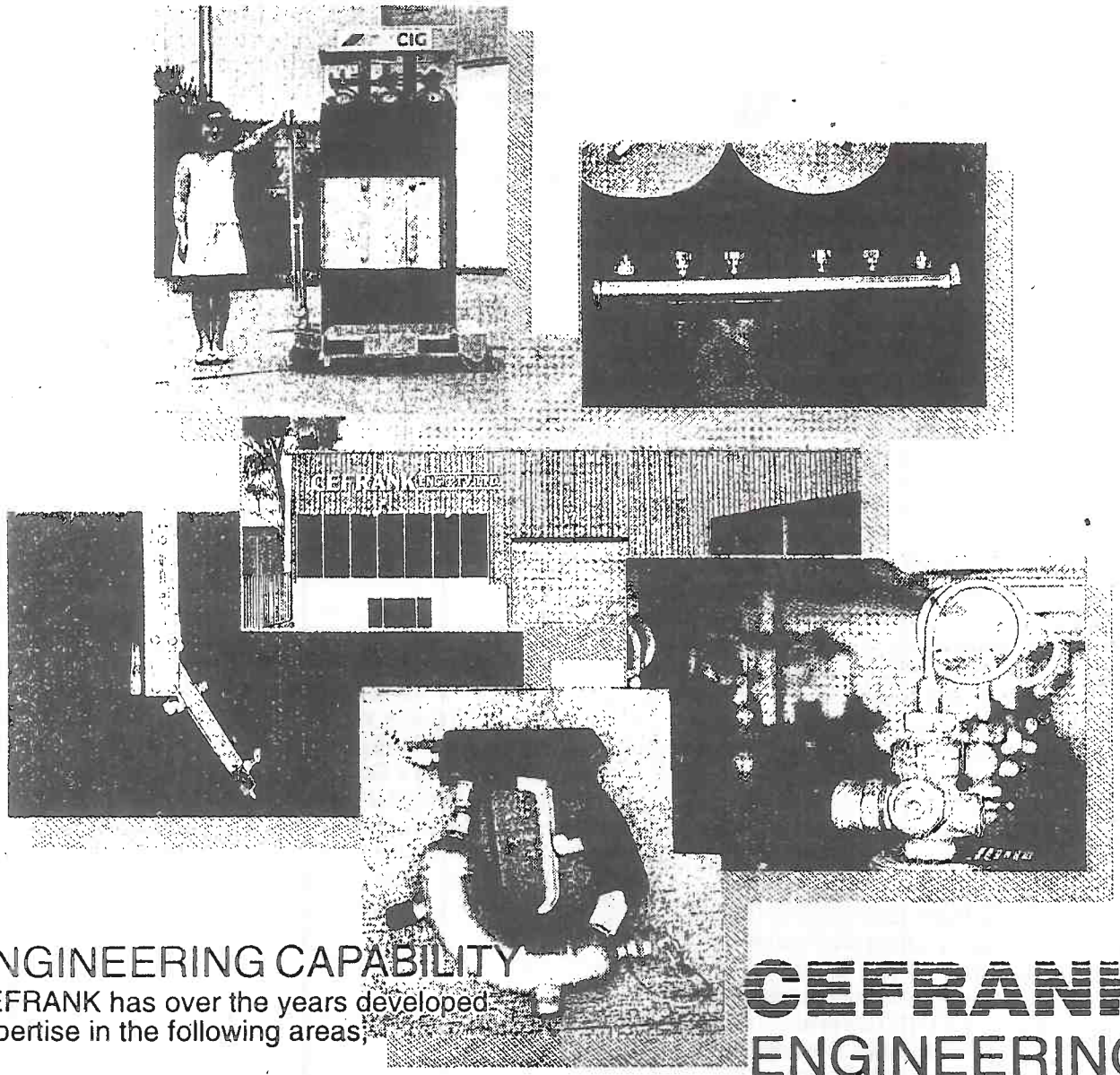

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